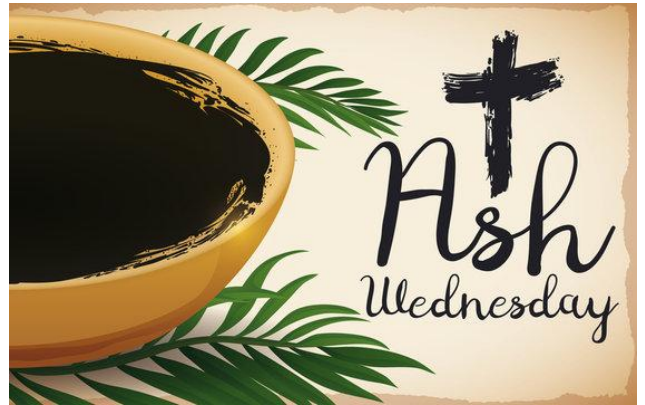


## OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,  
Dumbleton & Wormington)

Vicar: Revd Julia Hook, The Rectory,  
Alderton, Tewkesbury Glos. GL20 8NR  
Tel: 01242 620636 [mobile 07715953076]  
email: [julia.hook@btinternet.com](mailto:julia.hook@btinternet.com)

**MARCH 2025**



Dear Friends

Ash Wednesday – what’s it all about?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period in the lead up to Easter. Lent is a chance to slow down and be more intentional about your time and priorities, making time to put God first whether through prayer, acts of kindness, or giving something up.

Ash Wednesday itself started in the early Church, around 1st to 4th century as a form of public repentance, through sprinkling of ashes.

In services today, priests mark people's foreheads with ashes – a symbol of humility and a reminder of human mortality. Priests will say the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return", originating from Genesis 3:19 when God tells Adam that his life, like all human life, is temporary, but turning back towards God offers something eternal.

Lent represents the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, where he fasted, prayed, and resisted temptation (Matthew 4:1–11). Just as Jesus withdrew to focus on God, Lent invites us to step away from daily distractions and reflect on our lives – what's going well, where we need growth, and how we can deepen our faith.

In medieval times, Christians followed strict fasting rules, like giving up meat, dairy, and sometimes fish. These days, it's more flexible; some choose to give up something they love, like sweets, caffeine, or social media. Others choose to take on something positive, such as daily prayer, volunteering, or acts of kindness.

Ash Wednesday falls on **5 March** this year. Whether you’re a lifelong Christian, someone rediscovering faith, or just curious, you’re welcome to attend our **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE IN ALDERTON commencing at 7pm, being attended by Bishop Robert**. Please do come along and experience this tradition for yourself.

If you decide to participate in Lent, remember that Lent isn’t about self-denial, but about renewal and a chance to reset, refocus, and prepare for the joy of Easter. The Diocese have lots of resources on their website to help guide you through Lent – visit <https://gloucester.anglican.org/living-faith/everyday-faith/lent>.

As we enter the season of Lent, let's turn our whole heart to God; let us try to make time to draw closer to him in prayer – there is much to pray for in our beautiful but troubled world; let's fast in solidarity with those struggling to put food on the table and to give generously of the gifts we have. May love and hope be poured out upon us all through the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us and between us as a team, enabling us to bring God's love to all we meet. With love and Blessings, Julia x

**CONCERT FROM "MUSIC FOR DELIGHT" ON SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH AT 6.30PM FOR 7PM** in St Margaret's Church Alderton and is a combined fundraiser together with St Mary's Great Washbourne. The tickets are priced £10 to include canapés and there will be a paying bar. Tickets in advance from:

Helen West 07941 373 030,

Sarah Hughes 07989 048 123,

Karen Cox 07887 597 792

Jane Kent 07711 623 017.

Tickets will be available on the door. The group of singers have been highly recommended and several people in the village have mentioned how professional they are. Music includes a wide variety of songs - from Wicked to Cold Play, Pirates from Penzance and My Fair Lady. So join us for a spring evening of music listening (no karaoke!)

**FOUNDATION GOVERNOR: Oak Hill Primary School** is looking for a person to become a Foundation Governor (Governors now named Local Advisors) following the retirement of the person who has held the post for 2 successive terms. You need to have some connection with a Church as the school is a Church of England School. It is a rewarding position to be able to support our Village Primary School and Governors/Local Advisors are welcomed as valued members of the team and play a vital role in ensuring the local advisory board is aware of the views of parents and the local community. If you are interested or for more details, please contact Rev'd Julia Hook: [julia.hook@btinternet.com](mailto:julia.hook@btinternet.com) or 07715 953076.

## **LENT COURSE**

I am looking forward to hosting a Lent course here at The Vicarage. **The course will be on Wednesdays, 7 for 7.30pm, on the following dates: 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> March and will conclude on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.** Our dear friend Revd Michael Hand will be leading each evening. We look forward to seeing you.

## **ALDERTON**

**CHURCHYARD CLEARANCE:** we would love it if you would come along to help us tidy up the churchyard on **Saturday April 5th from 11am**. Please note the slightly later start time - because of the Coffee Morning and Plant Sale in the Village Hall at 10am. So we can go up and enjoy a coffee and cake to give us energy and buy some plants then come down to the churchyard! As it is a special place, it is worth keeping it looking smart and we would appreciate your help. Please bring along a few tools, kneeler and a bucket if you can!

**MOTHERING SUNDAY:** there will be a Cafe Church service for all 4 parishes at 10.30am in St Margaret's Church Alderton. This will be an informal service where all ages are very welcome, and drinks and croissants will be served with an opportunity to chat to everyone; a small present will be given as a thank you to people who care for us!

**LENT COURSE** – please see details above.

## **GREAT WASHBOURNE**

We hope to see you all at our fundraising Concert on **Saturday 8th March at Alderton Church** as detailed above, and at our usual services at 9am on Sundays 2nd and 16th March, a warm welcome to all.

## **DUMBLETON**

**Donations in respect of 'The Appeal for the Heating Project' have so far raised £1375.** Gift Aid tax is reclaimable on most of this amount. Thank you to all who have so far donated so generously. This project is ongoing and donations will still be gratefully accepted.

**"SPRING SONGS OF PRAISE"** is the theme for our relaxed Family Service on **SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH**. As always you will be welcome to join us at 10.30am to hear poems, readings and to sing some lovely hymns and songs relating to this wonderful time of year. Refreshments are always served at the end of every service, please come and enjoy.

**A LENT LUNCH** will be held in church on **Thursday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 12noon**. Please make a note of the date to come and enjoy Hot Soup, Delicious Cake together with tea/coffee. More details next month.

The local newly formed Chamber Choir - The Kenelm Singers are delighted to present: **"ALL IN THE APRIL EVENING" MUSICAL MEDITATION.**

This exciting musical meditation for Palm Sunday and Holy Week is to be held at St Peter's Church, Dumbleton on **PALM SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL at 6.30pm**.

This is a Charity Concert. Donations on the door in support of the Heating Project at St Peter's.

**FROM THE REGISTERS:** 12th February, Funeral of Diana Jane Quinney R.I.P.

## **WORMINGTON**

**PCC AGM Sunday 23rd March 6.45pm following Evensong.** All are welcome to attend.

**SPRING CLEANING** – A list of jobs will be listed on the welcome table. Please do try and tick some of them off if you are able to. With many thanks

**CAFÉ CHURCH** to be held at St Margaret's Church, Alderton Sunday 30th March 10.30am. All welcome - See details above.

# SERVICES FOR MARCH 2025

## Lectionary Year C

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Mar</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun <b>1 Lent</b> Green	9.00am <b>GT WASHBOURNE</b> HC CW	10.30am <b>DUMBLETON</b> HC CW	Exodus 34.29-end 2 Cor 3.12-4.2 Luke 9.28-36 [37-43b]
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Mar</b> <b>ASH</b> <b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>Service for all 4 parishes at 7.00pm in St Margaret's Church Alderton</b> <b>With Bishop Robert preaching and presiding</b>		
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Mar</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday <b>Lent 1</b> <b>Purple</b>	9.00am <b>WORMINGTON</b> HC Traditional	10.30am <b>ALDERTON</b> <b>LENT HC</b>	Deut 26.1-11 Romans 10.8b-13 Luke 4.1-13
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Mar</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday <b>Lent 2</b> <b>Purple</b>	9.00am <b>GT WASHBOURNE</b> <b>LENT HC</b>	10.30am <b>DUMBLETON</b> <b>SPRING SONGS</b> <b>OF PRAISE</b>	Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18 Philippians 3.17-4.1 Luke 13.31-end
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Mar</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday <b>Lent 3</b> <b>Purple</b>	<b>6.00PM</b> <b>WORMINGTON</b> <b>Choral Evensong</b>	10.30am <b>ALDERTON</b> <b>LENT HC</b>	Isaiah 55.1-9 1 Cor 10.1-13 Luke 8.22-25
<b>30<sup>th</sup> Mar</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sun <b>Lent 4</b> <b>Purple</b>	<b>MOTHERING SUNDAY: there will be a Cafe Church service for all 4 parishes at 10.30am in in St Margaret's Church Alderton.</b>		
<b>6<sup>th</sup> April</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun <b>Lent 5</b> <b>Purple</b>	9.00am <b>GT WASHBOURNE</b> <b>LENT HC</b>	10.30am <b>DUMBLETON</b> <b>LENT HC</b>	Isaiah 43.16-21 Philippians 3.4b-14 John 12.1-8

### CHURCHWARDENS

#### ALDERTON

Mrs S Reid, 4 Culls Meadow, Toddington

01242 621265

#### GREAT WASHBOURNE

Mrs J. Kent, Washbourne House, Gt. Washbourne

07711 623 017

Mrs Jane Harrington, Orchard View, Great Washbourne

07766 483130

#### DUMBLETON (PCC Secretary and Wedding Secretary)

Mrs T. Steggles, Bracklin, Main St. Dumbleton

01386 882049

#### WORMINGTON

Mr J. Evetts, Middle Hill Farm, Saintbury, Worcs.

07799035873

Mrs A. Piercy, Dairymead, Wormington

01386 584416